

**RESOLUTION NO. 32/2018-2019
BEFORE THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE INGLEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, special education is a federal and state mandated education program that entitles children with disabilities to receive a free appropriate public education; and

WHEREAS, California provides educational services to more than 700,000 children with identified disabilities; and

WHEREAS, California's neutral funding formula (Assembly Bill [AB] 602) does not adequately or equitably provide the necessary funding to pay for the increasing costs of providing educational services to students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, special education AB 602 funding rates among Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's) vary considerably without justification; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Analyst's Office has consistently recommended that the Legislature equalize special education AB 602 funding rates; and

WHEREAS, there has been a significant increase in the population of preschool-age children with autism, many of whom require intensive services; and

WHEREAS, California does not fund average daily attendance (ADA) or special education services for preschool-aged children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, preschool-age children with disabilities who receive high-quality care and education before kindergarten are 40% to 60% less likely to need special education interventions when they reach school age; and

WHEREAS, funding preschool programs for children with disabilities provides educational and social benefits that results in significant future cost savings to state and local educational agencies (LEAs); and

WHEREAS, in March 2015, the California Statewide Special Education Task Force issued a report recommending the state establish a new preschool funding mechanism and equalize AB 602 base funding rates; and

WHEREAS, the current amount of funding for students with significant disabilities, such as autism, blindness, deafness or severe orthopedic impairments, is far below amounts necessary to support their education; and

WHEREAS, the cost of materials, equipment, technology, and/or specialized services necessary for these students far exceed the per-ADA amount provided, with the average costs estimated at \$17,600 and can be as high as \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2019-20 State Budget proposal attempts to address the needs for students with disabilities for a small subset of LEAs, but does not propose any additional funding for these critical special education funding issues statewide; and

WHEREAS, AB 428 (Medina, D-Riverside) would increase and equalize AB 602 base funding rates, establish a funding mechanism for preschool programs for children with disabilities, provide additional funding for students with the most intensive needs, and address declining enrollment SELPAs; and

WHEREAS, the Inglewood Unified School District supports increased funding for special education equalization, the creation of a preschool funding mechanism for children with disabilities, and additional resources for students with high-cost disabilities as proposed in AB 428 (Medina); and

THEREFORE, be it Resolved that the State Administrator of the Inglewood Unified School District urges Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Legislature to support and fund AB 428 (Medina).

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was adopted at a regular meeting by the State Administrator of the Inglewood Unified School District on March 6, 2019.

Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, Ph. D.
State Administrator